

REMARKS

Claims 12-27 are all the claims pending in the application. In order to provide more varied protection, Applicants add claims 23-27, which are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 12.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawing figures and the previously cited references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 9, 2006.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner indicates that claims 12, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Asao (U.S. Patent No. 6,509,660). This rejection is respectfully traversed as Asao does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the unique features of the claimed invention.

For example, with regard to claim 12, Asao does not disclose, or even suggest, at least “said fan ha[ving] a blade including an interposed portion **extending axially** from an end surface of said pole core **between an adjacent pair of said claw-shaped magnetic poles.**”

Instead, Asao discloses a field core including a “tapered shoulder portion 120c” at the bend between the core portion 120a (alleged pole core) and the nail portion 120b (alleged claw shaped magnetic pole). Although Asao discloses “protruding portions 114b formed in the direction of the field core,” these portions are “**formed into a shape in line or substantially in**

line with the shoulder portion of the field core 120.” (See FIG. 2, and Col. 5, ll. 3-8). In addition, the protruding portions are formed so as to contact the shoulder in order to prevent deformation of the blades 114a. (Col. 6, ll. 1-7). That is, the protruding portions are the same size as, or smaller than, the shoulder portions of the core 120 and thus **do not extend between adjacent pairs of said claw shaped magnetic poles.**

For at least the above reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 12 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art. Additionally, as claims 15, 16, 18, 21 and 22 are dependent from claim 12, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 15, 16, 18, 21 and 22 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 12.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asao in view of Umeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,332).

With regards to claims 13, 14 and 17, claims 13, 14 and 17 depend from claim 12. Applicants have already demonstrated that Asao does not teach or suggest all of the unique features of independent claim 12. Umeda is relied upon only for its alleged teaching of a “stator coil ... wound into a distributed winding in which said conducting wire is disposed in a orderly manner inside said slots at intervals of a predetermined number of slots” (see Office Action, page 4) and as such, fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Asao. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the combined teachings of the above references would not have (and could not have) led one of ordinary skill in the art to have achieved the subject matter of claim 12. Accordingly, claims 13, 14 and 17 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asao in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,968). Claim 19 depends from claim 12. Applicants have already demonstrated that Asao does not teach or suggest all of the unique features of independent claim 12. The Examiner relies on Hayashi only for its alleged teaching of “a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the fan is made of iron” (see Office Action, page 5) and as such, fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Asao. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the combined teachings of Asao and Hayashi would not, and could not, have led one of ordinary skill in the art to have achieved the subject matter of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 12.

Last, the Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asao in view of Nagate et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,192). Claim 20 depends from claim 12. As described above, Applicants have already demonstrated that Asao does not teach or suggest all of the unique features of independent claim 12. The Examiner relies on Nagate only for its alleged teaching of “a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the fan is constituted by a non-magnetic material” (see Office Action, page 6) and as such, fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Asao.

As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the combined teachings of Asao and Nagate would not, and could not, have led one of ordinary skill in the art to have achieved the subject matter of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 20 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 12.

New Claims

In order to provide more varied protection, Applicant adds claims 23-27, which are patentable by virtue of their dependency and for additional unique features set forth therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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